(c) whether it is also a fact that the ICICI had opened a Letter of Credit for $4,182,387 in the name of German Company, Hassir Hieldelberg for the above said purpose;

(d) whether it is also a fact that second hand machinery had been purchased for only $15 million from the USA and shipped to Bombay; and

(e) whether Government have made any inquiry as to where the rest of the money had gone; and if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) has reported that it had sanctioned to the Indian Express Group a lease assistance of Rs. 10 crores as part finance cost of the imported equipment from USA. However, the company did not avail of the sanctioned assistance and the same has since lapsed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (c) Do not arise.

Floating of Bonds By Public Sector Undertakings

3246. SHRI VITHAL RAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Public Sector Undertakings have sought and have been granted permission to raise public funds/borrowings by floating bonds during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof public sector wise;

(c) what operative action has been taken by each of the Public Sector Undertakings during the current year to raise the required funds;

(d) what are the Public Sector Undertaking-wise mobilisation of public funds through Bonds during the past five years;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the funds raised for specific purposes were invested in banks under FMS or fixed deposits; and

(f) if so, the details of such deals Public Sector Undertaking-wise action taken against the defauiting officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (f) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tandon and Chore Committee Report

3247. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of Tandon and Chore Committee;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) what is the reaction of the Government thereto and final decision taken thereon;

(d) whether PHDCCI has furnished a memorandum to Government in regard to the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had constituted a "Study Group to Frame Guidelines for Follow-up of Bank Credit" under the Chairmanship of Shri Prakash Tandon, the then Chairman of Punjab National Bank which submitted its report in August, 1975. RBI had, also, set up another Committee (known as Chore Committee) headed by Shri K.B. Chore, the then Chief Officer of RBI, in March, 1979 to review the system of cash credit, for making the working capital needs of the industry. The recommendation made were for commercial banks to follow up and supervise credit from the point of view of ensuring propoer end-use of funds, adoption of inventory norms for financing of industries, the improvements

in information systems, review of accounts etc. Follow up action in this regard has been taken by RBI and the commercial banks from time to time.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misappropriation of reward money by Customs in Karnataka

3248. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of more than Rs. 1 crore of reward money was misappropriated by certain Customs Officials by planting an informer in a gold seizure by the Customs Department near Gangoli village of west coast of Karnataka some time in April, 1988;

(b) whether it is also a fact the a CBI inquiry was conducted into the misappropriation of reward money;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government against those found involved in the misappropriation of reward money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) The matter is under verification by the C.B.I.

Impact of New Economic Policy on the Poor

3249. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new economic policy is going to have an adverse effect on the gains made by the poverty elimination programme;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and what is the proposal so that the poor may not get adversely affected; and

(c) what are the measures taken in the new economic policy for primary education, basic health care, family planning and for the improvement of the living conditions of the poor people including earning opportunities for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) No, Sir, The new economic Policy which mainly relates to structural adjustment in industrial and trade policies would not in any way dilute the gains made by the poverty alleviation programme as there is no change in the policy with regard to poverty alleviation programmes. In fact, in the Eighth Plan, a higher percentage of total public sector outlay of 7.93 per cent for rural development and 18.2 per cent for social services has been made as against 5.04 per cent and 16.31 per cent respectively in the Seventh Plan.

Psychotropic drug menace in Madhya Pradesh

3250. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that psychotropic drugs menace is increasing day by day in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons arrested in the State during the last three years for drug peddling and the quantity of such drugs seized in the State durng the said period;

(c) what is the number of persons prosecuted for drug peddling in the State during the last three years;

(d) whether de-addiction centres have been opened to reform the drug addicts in the State by Government and voluntary organisation; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There has been no seizure of Psychotropic drugs, viz. Amphetamine,